

Violet E. Toph "The People's History of Ripley County" and "Stephen S. Harding" manuscripts S2474

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September 14, 2016

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts
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Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204
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Summary Information

Repository	Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Toph, Violet E., 1878-1956
Title	Violet E. Toph "The People's History of Ripley County" and "Stephen S. Harding" manuscripts
Date	1936-1948
Extent	0.25 Cubic feet 5 folders
Language	English
Text [Folder]	S2474-03
Text [Folder]	S2474-04
Text [Folder]	S2474-01
Text [Folder]	S2474-02
Text [Folder]	S2474-05

Preferred Citation

Violet E. Toph "The People's History of Ripley County" and "Stephen S. Harding" manuscripts, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

Biographical Note

Miss Violet E. Toph was born on December 29, 1878 to Thomas and Olive Toph. A life long resident of Ripley County, Indiana, Miss Toph attended local schools and Hanover College and was a teacher in the county for many years. After retirement, she served as the curator for the Ripley County Museum and was a founding member of the Ripley County Historical Society that was organized on July 14, 1921. Miss Toph was considered "The" local historian of the county and her research and compiled histories are still in use today. She passed away on October 11, 1956.

Sources:

Business and Professional Women of Osgood, Versailles, Milan, and Holton. *History of Ripley County, Indiana*. Batavia, Ohio: Clermont Publishing, 1968.

"Ripley County Biographies." *Ripley County, Indiana Historic Society*. Accessed August 30, 2016. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~inripchs/bio/bios.html#toph>.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains Violet Toph's typewritten manuscript, "The People's History of Ripley County, Indiana". She collected historical information about Ripley County over many years and she compiled the information into one volume in 1948. The collection includes a folder containing historical events and biographical sketches separate from the manuscript.

Miss Toph also collected information about Stephen S. Harding, a politician and abolitionist from Ripley County. Her typewritten manuscript (1936) of Harding contains a 4 page paper read by his granddaughter, Mrs. Ella Row, before the county historical society regarding the Underground Railroad. Also included is the thesis, "A Hoosier Abolitionist", by Etta Reeves French, Mr. Harding's poetry, and his story, "Collecting an Old Debt and a Night on the Open Prairie. A True Story."

Arrangement

This collection is arranged by subject.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation from Violet E. Toph.

Accruals

No further additions are expected.

Processing Information

Collection processing completed 2016/08/30 by Laura Eliason. EAD finding aid created 2016/08/30 by Laura Eliason.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Ripley County (Ind.)

Personal Name(s)

- Harding, Stephen S., 1808-1891

Subject(s)

- Underground railroad